

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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**PEMBROKE MAN SENT TO JAIL FOR DOUSING TEENS WITH GASOLINE,
THREATENING TO SET THEM ON FIRE**

BROCKTON – A Pembroke man was sentenced to serve 2 ½ years in the House of Correction for dousing two teenagers with gasoline and then threatening to set them on fire, District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz announced today.

Last Friday, a Plymouth County jury convicted William E. Rearick (DOB: 06/03/67) on two counts each of Assault with Intent to Murder, Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon and Assault and Battery. Rearick was also found guilty of five counts of Assault with a Deadly Weapon and one count of Intimidation of a Witness. Today, in Brockton Superior Court Judge C.J. Moriarty sentenced Rearick to serve 2 ½ years in the House of Correction for the two charges of Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon to run concurrently at the same time. Rearick was placed on five years probation on all other charges with conditions that include he stay away and have no contact with the victims or their address, he undergo mental health counseling, he refrain from using drugs or alcohol, that he seek and maintain employment and that he make restitution to the victims for items damaged by gasoline in the incident. The Commonwealth recommended that Rearick face at least three years in State Prison.

On January 9, 2013 at 3 p.m., Pembroke Police responded to a 911 call at 39 Birch Street and found an adult female and two teenaged girls screaming and crying. Upon entering the home, police immediately smelled a strong odor of gasoline and the smell intensified as police went downstairs. They located Rearick standing in the hallway carrying a propane tank in his left hand and a one-gallon gas container in his right hand and he immediately retreated to a basement room. Rearick sat in front of police and repeatedly threatened to light a cigarette lighter and open the propane tank valve in front of police and fire officials. Rearick continued to do this several more times until a family member arrived at the home and was able to use sign language to speak with Rearick, who is deaf. Police arrested him without incident.

The victims told investigators that their mother left for work that day after a fight with Rearick and one of the victims attempted to lock him out of the home. Rearick re-entered the home, sat down in the kitchen with a propane tank and a gas container and said "I am going to kill myself." One of the girls tried to call 911 but Rearick pushed her down and hung up the phone. Rearick then began pouring gasoline on the both girls, and all around the kitchen. The

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two girls physically struggled with Rearick until one girl was able to get to her room to call 911. At this point, the girls' mother returned home and the three escaped the house just prior to police and fire arriving on scene. Rearick remained in the house leading to the confrontation with the Pembroke Police and Fire Department, who were eventually able to diffuse the situation.

Assistant District Attorney Richard Linehan prosecuted the case, which was investigated by Pembroke Police.

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